FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 JANUARY 1986

Israel

Two IDF soldiers were killed and two were wounded when their patrol was ambushed by an armed infiltrator in the Jordan Valley 29 January, Jerusalem radio reported. The infiltrator, a private in the Jordanian Army, was also killed in the clash, the radio noted. Commenting on the incident in remarks broadcast by the radio, the Israeli chief of staff dismissed reports that Israeli planes had struck targets in Lebanon in retaliation for the Jordan Valley incident, pointing out that the air raid occurred before the IDF patrol was ambushed. On Jordan's failure to prevent the infiltration, the IDF Central Command commander told the radio that it is too early to determine whether Jordan has changed its policy, and he opined that the Jordanians are continuing to try to prevent terrorist activity. *HA'ARETZ* subsequently disclosed that King Husayn expressed regret over the death of the IDF soldiers in a message to Israel via the U.S. Administration. Husayn reportedly promised that Jordan will continue working to prevent terrorist attacks from its territory and he said the 29 January attack was perpetrated by two defectors from the Jordanian Army. Jerusalem radio revealed that two defectors from the Jordanian Army were captured by the Israelis about 3 weeks ago.

In another security development, masked gunmen fired at passengers in a car in Jerusalem 30 January, killing one person and injuring several others, according to AFP. The news agency further reported that a caller claiming to represent the PLO's Force 17 claimed the organization was responsible for the attack in a phone call to a foreign news agency.

As for Israel's foreign policy, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned in a U.S. publication cited by Jerusalem radio that there has been a "dangerous erosion" in the United States' position because it has embraced the notion of an international conference. Prime Minister Peres, in remarks broadcast by the radio on his return from the FRG, stressed that the peace process is "very much alive."

Lebanon

A Damascus radio commentary viewed the 29 January Israeli air raid on Palestinian targets in Lebanon as an example of "state-sponsored terrorism" carried out with "U.S. support and backing." A PLO spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted that the raid coincided with attacks on the Shatila camp in Beirut by militias "suspected of belonging to the agent Amal Movement."

Libya

"War will definitely take place" if the United States conducts military maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in a 27 January interview broadcast by Tripoli television. Al-Qadhdhafi stated that the U.S. maneuvers being conducted outside Libyan territorial waters, which he said extend to 32 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, "do not now concern us." He added, however, that he will propose that Mediterranean countries ban future military maneuvers in their "economic zones," which he defined as the continental shelf. Meanwhile, JANA reported that "Zionist vessels and gunboats" are participating in the U.S. 6th Fleet's exercises off the Libyan coast.

Commenting on the explosion of the U.S. space shuttle *Challenger*, Tripoli television said that while U.S. officials called this a great tragedy, the "real disaster" occurs when shuttle missions involved in the "star wars" program "export the seeds of death to outer space."

PDRY

Fighting is continuing in Abyan Governorate between supporters and opponents of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Muscat radio announced 30 January, adding that sources in Sanaa have said the opposition forces are facing strenuous resistance to their attempt to control the governorate. Nevertheless, Aden radio reported that YSP official Salih Munassar al-Siyali attended a mass rally in Abyan Governorate 27 January during which 'Ali Nasir and his "clique" were denounced.

Kuwait

In an analysis of the Soviet role in the PDRY crisis, Kuwait's *AL-QABAS mentioned "definite information" that Soviet military* experts sided with the forces opposed to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, adding that over 100 Soviets were killed or injured in the fighting. *AL-QABAS* speculated that the Soviet Union may have backed the rebels because it had information that 'Ali Nasir was planning to restore the unity of the two Yemens and move away from the Soviet bloc.

Jordan-PLO

The *JORDAN TIMES* reported "no breakthrough" in the talks between King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, which continued 29 January. Fatah official Hani al-Hasan noted that the PLO could not accept the U.S. offer of PLO participation in an international conference in return for acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 because this falls short of U.S. endorsement of Palestinian self-determination.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 020 *30 January 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul Reports Clashes, Tension in Pakistan ..... C 1
Clandestine Radio Reports USSR Airlifting Supplies ..... C 1
[Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan]

INDIA

Bomb Damages Bridge on Route Planned for Gandhi *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Further Details ..... E 1
Tight Security for Pope's Visit Planned *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Papandreou Rules Out Military Action From U.S Bases ..... E 1
Foreign Secretary Bhandari To Visit Sri Lanka ..... E 2
UK Sikh's Murder Condemned; Gandhi Sends Condolences ..... E 2
UK To Provide Protection ..... E 2
Commentary Blames UK Inaction ..... E 2
Further on Unrest Incidents at Sikhs' Golden Temple ..... E 3
Akali Dal Condemns 'Illegal' Act ..... E 3
Militants Vow To Remain in Temple *[AFP]* ..... E 3
2 Killed in Amritsar District ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Presides Over Meeting of New Cabinet ..... F 1
'Thousands' Attend Opposition Rally in Lahore *[AFP]* ..... F 1
Sikhs To Lodge Protest Over Hijackers' Sentence *[JANG 22 Jan]* ..... F 1
Party Official Attributes High Drug Use to Refugees *[HAIDAR 25 Jan]* ..... F 2
Mujahidin Actions in Qandahar, Herat Detailed ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Li Xianian To Pay Official Visit 8 Mar ..... G 1
PRC Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit 23 Jan ..... G 1

NEPAL

General Elections Scheduled for 12 May *[THE RISING NEPAL 24 Jan]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Tours North; Tamil Refugees Return ..... G 1
Indian High Commissioner Views Citizenship Issue ..... G 1
Meets With Jayewardene *[Delhi]* ..... G 2
Draft Citizenship Bill Referred to Supreme Court ..... G 2
Troops, Helicopters Repulse Tamil Attack *[AFP]* ..... G 2
'Berserk' Soldier Shoots 10, Injures 7 ..... G 2
Curfew Imposed in Nuwara Following Ethnic Clashes *[Delhi]* ..... G 3
Curfew Areas Listed ..... G 3
Troops Rushed to Plantation Areas *[AFP]* ..... G 3

25 'Terrorists' Captured in Eastern Region ..... G 3
Tea Prices Stabilize As Cyanide Scare Subsides ..... G 3

IRAN

Contradictory Radio Reports on PDRY Fighting Cited ..... I 1
Lebanon's Shams al-Din Speaks at Islamic Conference ..... I 1
Majlis Condemns 'Conspiracy' To Drive Down Oil Price ..... I 1
Commentary on Oil Market Situation ..... I 1
Oil Ministry Official Leaves for UAE, Saudi Arabia ..... I 2
Information Minister Warns Against Factionalism ..... I 3
Indonesian President, Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties ..... I 3
POW'S Torture by Iraqi Government Detailed ..... I 3
SAIRI Reports Ba'thist Commander Killed in Najaf ..... I 3

Kabul Reports Clashes, Tension in Pakistan

GF291414 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the brave youths of Baluch have recently attacked the Pakistani militia security force in (Janaral) region, as result of which 61 hired officers and soldiers of the despotic regime of General Zia surrendered themselves to the brave Baluchis. In this confrontation, 19 Baluchis were martyred and 13 others were injured. Likewise, the brave and valorous Baluchis attacked with arms another militia security force causing six soldiers killed and two tanks to explode. Reports add that the situation is tense in Quetta, and every day demonstrations go on against the ruthless regime of Pakistan. Demonstrators invite the Baluchi and Pashtun people for unity and harmony and condemn the anti-Islamic actions of the Islamabad regime.

According to another report, the brave Baluchi people planted two mines in the office of the (?labor courts) of Pakistan near Quetta city which inflicted a lot of damages and casualties to the Pakistani aggressor forces. The report adds that the various Baluchi tribes, under the leadership of Malik 'Alijan, arrested and disarmed 100 counterrevolutionary elements in the units of Pakistani militiamen who wanted to go to the Khyber Agency through the Baluchi-inhabited area in Quetta and take part in the inhuman and subversive activities of the Pakistani regime against the brave people of the Afridi and Shenwari tribes of the Khyber Agency.

Similarly the Kaka people residing in Badni district expressed their decided support of the righteous struggle of the Baluchi and Pashtun people against the cruelties and crimes of Pakistan's despotic regime. For instance, a group of the Kaka tribes attacked the counterrevolutionary camp in Badni, as a result of which Mullah 'Abdul Hakim, the head of the counterrevolutionary camp, was annihilated together with eight counterrevolutionary elements. Likewise, in a clash which took place between the Kaka tribes and the Afghan counterrevolutionary elements in the Muslim Bagh District, 15 Afghan counterrevolutionaries were killed and 2 vehicles were destroyed. Fifty-two units of various types of arms were seized together with 2 units of (?Katyusha) and 25 units of antitank mines.

Another report says that a clash took place recently between the soldiers of the despotic regime of Pakistan and the brave people of the Afridi and Shenwari tribes in Khyber Agency which led to the killing of 150 Pakistani soldiers and the burning of 4 armored vehicles. The report says that as a result of this severe confrontation, the puppet army of General Zia's regime was forced to withdraw as a result of the heroic attacks made by the brave people of the Afridi and Shenwari tribes.

Clandestine Radio Reports USSR Airlifting Supplies

GF291816 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashtu 1700 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Reports from Kabul indicate that following repeated attacks by the mujahidin on Soviet supply columns on Salang Highway, the Soviets are now resorting to air transport. The reports indicate that between 5 and 15 January 22 Soviet IL-26 heavy transport aircraft were seen landing at Kabul airport.

The reports indicate that food prices have soared in Kabul. During the past 2 months alone the price of flour has risen by 25 percent. The reports add that the daily consumer goods like oil, sugar, and petroleum, are scarce and are being sold at vry high prices on the blackmarket.

Bomb Damages Bridge on Route Planned for Gandhi

HK291558 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Madras, India, Jan 29 (AFP) — A powerful bomb blast today damaged a road bridge along the route planned for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was due in this southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu on Friday, police said.

Police said they suspected the local Kisan Liberation Movement — an organisation associated with a pro-Beijing communist group, generally known as Naxalites — to be responsible for the incident.

The explosion near Thiruvaiyaru village, about 250 kilometers (156 miles) from this state capital, damaged a bridge over the Kudamurutti River, but no one was hurt, police said.

Police recovered an unexploded detonator from the spot. They found the words "Tamil Eelam Army" and a slogan on local river water shortage written on the side of the bridge wall. But they ruled out involvement by separatist Tamils from neighbouring Sri Lanka in the incident, though thousands of Tamil refugees have fled to this state since ethnic trouble erupted in the island republic.

Mr Gandhi is to formally open a government-backed Tamil cultural centre and take part in a function in memory of a Tamil saint at Thiruvaiyaru on Friday. He was to arrive at the nearby town of Thanjavur by helicopter and then proceed to Thiruvaiyaru by road. Authorities have ordered tight security in the area following the blast. There was no immediate arrest.

Further Details

BK300325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, a bridge was damaged in an explosion on the Tanjavur-Thiruvaiyaru Road early yesterday. Police said that the explosion damaged the parapet wall of the bridge on the river Kudamurutti near Thiruvaiyaru; no one was injured. The annual music festival in memory of the saint composer, Thyagraja Aradhana, was to begin last evening at Thiruvaiyaru.

Tight Security for Pope's Visit Planned

HK290922 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 29 (AFP) — India has planned intense security for Pope John Paul II's visit, with 20 "Black Cat" commandoes forming a human cordon around the Pope and thousands of police in the crowds, official sources said today.

The security, ranked on the "Category A" level accorded to heads of state, was decided after some churches here received at least three letters containing threats to kill the head of the world's 850 million Catholics, sources said. The Pope also is likely to face demonstrations by militant Hindu organisations. Some groups here have demanded that he recognize all religions and denounce proselytizing.

The Black Cat commandoes, named for their black battle dress, are considered the cream of India's security network. They form security for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, one of the world's most closely guarded leaders. The commando group was formed after he assumed power from his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984, and is drawn from all of India's security organizations. "They are the top security men in India today," said one source.

They will be part of a "special protection group" set up to form the inner security ring around the Pope during his 10-day visit beginning Saturday, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

The sources said churches in New Delhi, Ranchi and Madras also have been told to give minimum possible public exposure to the Pope because of the threats. "We have received information that certain non-Christian sects do not like his tour... There may be security hazards," an intelligence official said quoting a security plan document. "On average, some 600 police will be on duty in each of the places the Pope will visit," one source said.

However in Ranchi, an eastern India industrial town where half a million people are expected to gather, 2,000 policemen and officers have been assigned to the visit on Monday. A section of the militant separatist group Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is planning a demonstration to protest against alleged mass conversion of Hindu tribals to Christianity, Ranchi police chief J. Singh told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

In Madras, southern India, which has a high concentration of Christians, Tamil Nadu State special police commandoes will join the Black Cats in the inner security ring because of two anonymous letters threatening assassination have been received there. The Pope is to travel in a specially made automobile flown here. The "Popemobile" has armoured sides and a strengthened chassis. But officials said the Pope may have to use Indian cars in certain places. They gave no reasons.

In New Delhi, the papal motorcade from the airport to Sacred Heart Cathedral is to be guarded and all vehicular traffic along the way will be suspended, the sources said. Commandoes and sharpshooters are to man tree tops and high buildings to give any necessary covering fire, police sources said.

The city's additional police commissioner Arun Bhagat said that at last half of an armed police battalion would be mobilised. One battalion consists of 1,200 men. "He is going to so many places and appearing at so many public functions that security will always remain a problem... but we are doing everything," an official source here said. The Pope is to visit 11 cities and cover more than 15,000 kilometers (10,000 miles) by plane, helicopter and car.

Papandreou Rules Out Military Action From U.S Bases

BK271621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The six nations, which issued a declaration on disarmament from Delhi, are planning an initiative in support of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's proposal. Mr Andreas Papan-

dreou, the prime minister of Greece, who is one of the signatories to the delcaration, told a news conference in New Delhi today that work has already been done at lower levels. The top leaders will issue a joint statement in the next few weeks in this connection. There will be other meetings of leaders of the six nations well before the projected summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev later this year. The other signatories to the 6-nation declaration are Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania, besides India.

Mr Papandreou described Mr Gorbachev's proposal as one of the most positive moves that could have been made. He said he had discussed the proposal with prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and they are in complete agreement with the proposal which envisaged elimination of nuclear weapons before the end of the century.

Replying to a question, the Greek prime minister said his country will not allow its territory to be used bg the United States for any action against Libya.

Referring to Indo-Greek relations, he said though these are good, a great deal can be done to promote them further as there is a great potential for economic cooperation.

Foreign Secretary Bhandari To Visit Sri Lanka

BK291243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, is to visit Sri Lanka from the 3d to the 5th of next month. He will hold discussions with the Sri Lankan leaders. The visit is a part of continuing efforts to find a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka.

UK Sikh's Murder Condemned; Gandhi Sends Condolences

BK241604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The Government of India has condemned the assassination of Mr Tarsam Singh Toor in London last night by a suspected terrorist. Mr Tur was the secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress. He was shot at from close range in his shop in Southall near London and died as a result of the injuries he sustained.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the cowardly shooting of Mr Toor is one of a series of recent attacks on moderates in Britain. India hopes that the British Government will take appropriate action to prevent recurrence of such terrorist acts and a climate will be restored in which the voice of reason can be encouraged to speak without fear.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has sent a message of sympathy to the family of Mr Toor. Twelve senior Congress-I legislators from Punjab have condemned the murder of Mr Toor. In a joint statement, the legislators described Mr Tur as an eminent scholar who constantly fought and raised his voice against terrorism and antinational elements.

UK To Provide Protection

BK281008 Delhi IS1 Diplomatic Information Service in English 0847 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] The British Government has assured India that no effort will be spared to track down the killer of General Secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress Tarsam Singh Toor who was killed in London last week. British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd told Indian High Commissioner in London Doctor P.C. Alexander that an investigation is being conducted on the basis that it was a political murder. The high commissioner had met the home secretary to convey New Delhi's concern over the killing. Later Doctor Alexander told newsmen that the British Government will provide police protection to moderate leaders of the Indian community in Britain.

Commentary Blames UK Inaction

BK291418 Delhi General Overseal Service in English 1340 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt, political commentator]

[Text] The failure of the British Government to act against the group of Sikh terrorists sheltering in that country has again been brought into focus by the murder of a prominent leader of the Indian community. Mr Tarsam Singh Toor, general secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress and a leading moderate Sikh, was gunned down in a shop in Southall, London, a few days ago. He was shot at point blank range allegedly by a white man, who was obviously a hired killer. The same terrorist group, which had made attempts on the life of two other moderate Sikhs recently, was apparently behind Mr Toor's murder. The other two who escaped death were Mr Santap Singh Sandoo, chief organizer of the Akali Dal who was shot only a week earlier, and Mr Sohan Singh, another leader of the Indian Overseas Congress who was a target of terrorist violence in November last. As if these two incidents were not sufficient warning to the British police and the British government, there was no apparent effort to trace the criminals nor was protection extended to the man on whom the killers were to drain their weapons next.

Some 2 years ago another extremist group enjoying the hospitality of the British Isles abducted an Indian diplomat at Birmingham, Mr Ravindra Mahatre, and subsequently killed him. His killers were identified and while some of them escaped to Pakistan, some were brought to book. But the action proved to be a flash in the pan. The Sikh terrorists openly indulged in threats of violence and even talked of killing the late prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The venerable BBC went to the extent of interviewing these extremists and their threats to kill Indian leaders were given media coverage.

Time and again the Indian Government has drawn London's attention to the activities of the Sikh terrorist elements, their indulgence in anti-Indian demonstrations, burning of the Indian flag, intimidation of the moderate leaders of the Sikhs in particular, and of the Indian community in general. When Mr Rajiv Gandhi was in Britain in October last, he had discussed the matter with his British counterpart. Assurances of swift actions

to curb the extremists were given with results which we have seen. What is worse, some of the protagonists of the so-called Khalistan, including the one who calls himself its defense minister, have been favored with special housing or other benefits. British hearts seem to be striking sympathetic notes, else how could special housing be allocated to the so-called Khalistani leader? How would Britain react if the outlawed Irish Republican Army were given the same kid glove treatment by New Delhi were those terrorists to seek refuge in India and claim political refugee status? After all, the Irish terrorists claim to fight for a cause and yet when the IRA struck at a hotel where the entire British Tory leadership, including the prime minister of that country, was staying, India condemned the action with one voice. It is for Britain to see how the elements from the Sikh community, which are carrying on anti-Indian activities and indulging in violence, should be put down and rendered harmless. Britain should realize that it is these elements which have nurtured the separatist Sikh movement, and the actions directed against India's integrity gives some sustenance to the terrorists in Punjab.

Canada, another country where there is a sizable Indian community, many of them Sikhs, has also to wake up to the danger posed by the Sikh terrorists who are quite active in that country. Until the terrible tragedy of the Air India jumbo *Kanishka's* crash in the Atlantic and the blowing up of a baggage at Tokyo airport airlifted there from Canada, the Ottawa authorities were inclined to take Indian warning of the extremist danger lightly. Even after the *Kanishka* outrage, Canada has not taken effective steps to come down on the elements at Vancouver and other cities indulging in anti-Indian activities. Canada can also be asked how it would react if India gives the same soft treatment to one of the French secessionist groups working against Canada.

The vast majority of the Sikhs in Britain, in Canada and elsewhere are hard working, peace loving people, loyal to India or to the country of the adoption. But most of them prefer to keep quiet in the face of the open intimidation by the extremists harbored in those countries.

When some brave men like the late Mr Tarsam Singh Toor take courage in their hands and speak up against the anti-Indian elements, they are silenced by the use of the gun, and the response of the civilized countries like Britain or Canada is that their laws do not permit their governments to stop anti-India propaganda and open intimidation of the peaceful elements. The question can longer be avoided: Is it lawful to utter threats and carry them out, to openly preach violence and organize cessationist activities against a friendly country? Can India be blamed if she considers such actions as not very friendly?

Further on Unrest Incidents at Sikhs' Golden Temple

Akali Dal Condemns 'Illegal' Act

BK271611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The Akali Dal has condemned the allegedly illegal activity which took place in the Golden Temple complex yesterday. A resolution adopted at a high level meeting in Chandigarh said these acts are against the tenets of Sikhism. It said the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh temple management committee] is the only democratically constituted body responsible for the management of the gurdwaras. The right to summon the Sarbat Khalsa [World Sikh Convention] rests only with the chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikhs] and the appointment of jathedars [priests] can be done only as per the Gurdwara Act, the resolution stated.

The meeting appealed to the entire Sikh panth [community] to give the cooperation to the Akali Dal and the SGPC for maintaining the high traditions and sanctity of Shri Darbara Sahib [Golden Temple] and Shri Akal Takht Sahib. The meeting was presided over by the party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. The party MP's, MLA's [members of legislative assembly], district presidents and senior Akali Dal leaders took part.

Releasing the resolution to newsmen, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chief, Mr G.S. Tohra, said an informal meeting of the SGPC will be held at Anantpur Sahib tomorrow to decide the future course of action. He said he is against any confrontation within the Golden Temple complex. But at the same time any violation of the Sikh tradition and sanctity of a religious place cannot be tolerated, he added.

Militants Vow To Remain in Temple

HK300752 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 30 (AFP) — Sikhs militants who took over the Golden Temple here on Sunday today vowed to resist any attempts to dislodge them, saying "we will give our blood, but will not leave the shrine." "We are ready to die... whoever wants to throw us out of our most sacred temple will have to do (so) over our dead bodies," said their spokesman, Mokham Singh.

Observers said the announcement came amid fear security forces might enter the shrine to clear out the militants campaigning for a separate Sikh homeland in northern Punjab State. About 600 militants armed with swords and spears and a few World War II vintage rifles remained in control of the Golden Temple today, eyewitnesses said. Militants took over the shrine in this Sikh holy city on Sunday during a religious convention.

Indian paramilitary troops who have built sand bunkers on buildings around the temple today kept a close watch on it, eyewitnesses said. The temple was the scene of a fierce battle in June 1984 when the Indian Army stormed it to dislodge militants. At least 650 people died in the attack.

Mr. Singh said militants would not make the "first move" if any attempt was made to dislodge them. "We will offer resistance peacefully, but it is the dictate of our gurus to protect the shrine by our blood... so if the government sends the forces in, we will resist it," he said.

The militant faction of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, meanwhile, passed a resolution demanding the quick removal of the paramilitary forces which have built the sand bunkers around the shrine. "The security forces are unnecessarily creating tension... they are creating a pre-June 1984 situation for no reason," said Mr. Singh, quoting the resolution. "We, the people inside,

are just performing our religious duties and we strongly feel that we should be left in peace to do our duties," he said.

The militants began demolishing the "Akal Thakt" — or the throne of the timeless — on Monday in order to rebuild it by traditional Sikh labour or "Kar Seva." The shrine was damaged during the army's June 1984 attack and was rebuilt with government help but without the approval of Sikh religious authorities.

Meanwhile, informed sources said the shrine would have to be cleared before a religious convention called by Sikh moderates was summoned. The proposed "Sarbat Khalsa" convention has the same religious importance as the one held by the militants Sunday. The moderates called for the convention after meeting earlier this week in another Sikh shrine city, Anantpur Sahib, to review the situation after the militant take-over of the Golden Temple.

The moderates, who signed a peace accord with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July aimed at ending a campaign for greater Sikh autonomy in Punjab, control the government in the strategic border state. No date has been fixed for the moderate convention, but the sources said it could be held any time between February 7 and 16.

2 Killed in Amritsar District

BK300309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and one seriously injured when four unidentified armed miscreants fired at them near Lopoke village in Amritsar District last night. One of the killed has been identified as Mohan Singh, a member of the village panchayat [council], and the injured as block Congress-I president of Lopoke, Mr Vijay Kumar. The two killed were loading fertilizers in a tractor at the shop of Mr Vijay Kumar at the time of the attack. The police have launched a manhudnt for the culprits.

Prime Minister Presides Over Meeting of New Cabinet

BK291629 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The first meeting of the new Federal Cabinet was presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. Welcoming the Cabinet members, the prime minister said the new Cabinet must shoulder heavy responsibilities because it is the first occasion in many years that the elected government is fully accountable to the people. He said the tasks of the cabinet members require dedication and skill so that future challenges can be faced and the expectations of the people fully met. The prime minister stressed that the Cabinet members should give special attention to the welfare of the people, especially the poor and deprived in society, because these people are looking to the new democratic government to solve their problems and redress their grievances.

The prime minister said the government sgould adopt progressive and dynamic social and economic policies in light of the 5-point program announced during his address to the nation last month. It will be the special responsibility of the Cabinet to see that this is fully implemented in a responsible manner. The prime minister advised the Cabinet members to freely express their views and ideas. He said they will have full freedom in this connection, but when a decision is taken it becomes the collective responsibility of the Cabinet to fully implement it.

Mohammad Khan Junejo also emphasized that the federal ministers and ministers of state should strengthen institutions and establish contacts with the people at the grassroots level so that the people support the government's policies and programs and the people have confidence that the government is fully capable of solving their problems. In this connection the Cabinet considered the evil of corruption and measures to effectively face it.

The Cabinet also considered the agenda of work before the National Assembly and Senate and decided on the arrangements that are necessary to effectively handle the business in both houses.

It also reviewed the political situation in the country and said there is a need for associating people with the decision-making process of the government. It was decided that the Cabinet should meet regularly at least once every 15 days or more often so that all important issues are brought under consideration by the Cabinet, the highest decision-making institution in the country. The Cabinet also decided that the economic committee will meet regularly every week to review the economic situation and that all everyday problems in the economic field will be solved speedily and effectively. The Cabinet meeting started with a recitation from the Koran by Commerce Minister Mohyuddin Baluch.

'Thousands' Attend Opposition Rally in Lahore

NC291849 Paris AFP in English 1839 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Lahore, Jan 29 (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people rallied today in an impressive show of strength by the 11-party opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). It was the first time all the parties of the extra-parliamentary coalition have joined together since martial law was lifted in Pakistan on December 30. But the rally also showed up some dissensions between party militants within the coalition as they face the prospect of open politics with the gradual return of civic liberties.

All opposition leaders who have not left Pakistan were free to attend the rally in a working class district here. Their speeches to an enthusiastic crowd, many carrying portraits of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed in 1979, repeated calls for a return to the democratic Constitution of 1973, for free elections with party politics and the release of political prisoners.

MRD leaders are due to meet here Thursday and Friday to decide whether to accept or not the registration of their parties included in new laws passed by a Parliament they do not recognise. The MRD boycotted the February elections. The outcome of the meetings is by no means sure with the moderate Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party already declaring it intends to register.

Sikhs To Lodge Protest Over Hijackers' Sentence

GF281333 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Jan 86 p 1

[Article by *JANG* correspondent]

[Text] London — The president of the Khalistan Government in exile, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, has strongly protested against the judgements pronounced against the Sikh hijackers. He said these sentences were most cruel and unjust. He said the Sikhs had gone to Pakistan on a holy mission and they were sentenced without being given a chance to defend themselves. He said that these judgements were political and meant to please Rajiv Gandhi so that Pakistan could get back the Siachen glacier and also could come to some understanding with India on other disputed matters.

He said that the Sikh hijackers had been kept in jail for 5 years without trial in contravention of the Geneva Convention and the human rights charter. He said that these hijackers were not even allowed to meet their family during this period.

He further complained that the Pakistan Government did not allow the lawyers of the Sikhs to defend their cases and also had banned entry of several Sikhs into Pakistan. These Sikhs wanted to be present at the court proceedings against the hijackers and to render help if needed. He said the Sikh hijackers were engaged in a holy war to liberate their homeland which had fallen under the control of the Hindu imperialists. He said a similar case is today being heard in India. There the Sikh hijackers have been given several facilities.

He said that the judgements pronounced against the Sikh hijackers by Pakistan rulers have shocked the Sikh nation, and that this will never be forgiven.

He said: We do not want Pakistan to side with the Sikhs; Pakistan should remain neutral. We will lodge a formal protest against these judgements with the Government of Pakistan.

Party Official Attributes High Drug Use to Refugees

GF300538 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 25 Jan 86 p 1

[Article by *HAIDAR* correspondent]

[Excerpt] Lahore, 24 Jan — The vice president of the women's section of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party, Sorraiya 'Aziz, said that due to the wrong policies of the regime, 3 million Afghan refugees are responsible for the growing curse of heroin addiction in the country.

It is wishful thinking for the government to believe that these refugees will go back to their homes; this is impossible. She said that the government has issued passports, identity cards, and driving licences to these refugees. History is a witness to the fact the Afghans who crossed the border into Pakistan have never gone back. These refugees now own property in Pakistan. She added that it is due to these refugees that every third person in Pakistan is a heroin addict. She claimed that Soviet spies are entering Pakistan in the garb of refugees. She further said that the foodstuff given to these refugees is being sold openly in the Peshawar market.

Mujahidin Actions in Qandahar, Herat Detailed

BK290810 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahdin attacked and destroyed offices of the Karmal regime in the Nevand subdivision of Qandahar Province, killing 21 Soviet-Karmal troops. Meanwhile, according to reports from Herat, many mujahidin were martyred when Karmal troops attacked their base near the city. Karmal troops' shelling also killed many civilians in the outskirts of Herat.

BANGLADESH

Li Xianian To Pay Official Visit 8 Mar

BK291551 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Chinese President Li Xiannian will pay a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh on the 8th of March next at the invitation of President Ershad. This was officially announced in Dhaka today. The invitation was extended during President Ershad's state visit to China in July last year. The Chinese president will hold talks with President Ershad on matters of bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Observers say that Mr Li Xianian's visit will further strengthen the close of bonds of friendship between the two countries. China is a major partner in the economic development of Bangladesh. It is providing aid on a number of important project including Ponash urea fertilizer factory, Sunderban textile mill and Buriganga River bridge.

PRC Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit 23 Jan

BK240204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The 10-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for chemical industry, Mr Qin Zhongda, left Dhaka yesterday after an 8-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr Qin, who led his country at the second session of the Bangladesh-China joint commission, also attended the inauguration of the Kalas urea fertilizer factory. He also held detailed discussions with a number of ministers to (?stabilize) and develop the existing economic relations between the two countries.

China has agreed to assist Bangladesh in the mining and exploration of coal deposits at (Boropokuria) in the northern parts of the country. It also agreed to consider (?Dhaka's) request for setting up of some new projects including a number of fertilizer plants and power distribution projects. The delegation visited Chittagong, Chandraghona and Kaftari.

NEPAL

General Elections Scheduled for 12 May

BK291650 Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 24 Jan 86 p 1

[Excerpts] The general elections will be held on Monday, 29th of Baishakh 2043 B.S. Bikram Sangha (May 12) to elect 112 members of the Rastriya Panchayat from 75 districts of the country. Elections will be held on the same day all over the Kingdom. This is stated in a notice published here Thursday by the Election Commission. Polling will begin at 8:00 hours in the morning and will close at 17:00 hours.

Chief Election Commissioner Surya Prasad Shrestha said Thursday that a comprehensive election schedule will be brought out in due course of time to begin election works from the 17th of Chaitra, 2042 B.S. [31 March].

This is the second general elections after the second amendment to the constitution of Nepal. The first election was held in 2038 B.S., five years ago.

Of the total 140 seats at the Rastriya Panchayat, 112 members are elected on basis of adult franchise. Total voters for the coming general elections hover around 8,974,199. There will be more than 12 thousand polling centres.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali Tours North; Tamil Refugees Return

BK271159 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tamils who went as refugees to India are now returning in large numbers. This number is on the increase according to a top naval official who informed this to National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

The minister who toured the northern province yesterday visited the surveillance zone up to Mannar and held talks with Aymed personnel. Mr Athulathmudali also visited the security services headquarters at Vanni, a naval camp at Karainagar, and the Kalladi camp in Mannar. His visit also included Nagadeepa, Kayts, Kachchativu, Eluvativu.

The minister held talks with suspected terrorists detained at a security center. Among the terrorist suspects were those who had maintained a television center illegally. These suspects told the minister that they had maintained the center on a commercial basis. One of the detenus was a Sinhalese who resisted the terrorists in planting a bomb. The suspects told the minister that the army was providing them with all their day to day requirements.

Earlier, the minister visited the security centers in Vavuniya and Mannar. He expressed his appreciation for the services rendered by the armed personnel and said that the president himself was satisfied with their activities. The minister stressed the need for discipline among the armed personnel. Mr Athulathmudali also visited the surveillance zone and other areas in Jaffna.

The fishermen in Vavuniya who met the minister requested him to make more facilities available for them to market their produce. The minister assured them that the facilities would be made available in time.

Indian High Commissioner Views Citizenship Issue

BK261320 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, said that a critical and unjust assessment had been in the statement of the SLFP about the [words indistinct] cooperative efforts undertaken by the governments of India and Sri Lanka regarding the

stateless persons. The high commissioner said the statement that the original Indo-Lankan agreement had been changed or violated by arrangements announced on 15 January is incorrect.

The high commissioner was replying to queries regarding a statement issued by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike recently. He said the Indian government's response to suggestions made by the Sri Lankan Government does not violate the 1964 and 1974 agreements in any manner in letter or in spirit. He said that neither Indian nor Sri Lankan citizenship was to be imposed on stateless persons in Sri Lanka. It was purely voluntary. The Government of India will be conferring Indian citizenship on Tamils of Indian origin on a voluntary basis and only those who have applied for it by October 1981 would get it.

The high commissioner remarked that he was not aware of illicit immigrants coming from India to Sri Lanka. India has no people to protect in Sri Lanka except Indian citizens and it is India's fervent hope that the Sri Lankan Government and its leaders will protect all its citizens.

Meets With Jayewardene

BK280919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] India has conveyed to Sri Lanka its concern on the continuing violence against Tamil civilians in the northern and eastern parts of the island. This was conveyed by the high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, to President Jayewardene in Colombo last evening. The high commissioner stressed New Delhi's desire that the military approach will not only complicate the situation but will cause more sufferings to the civilians.

Mr Jayewardene told Mr Dixit that Colombo's reaction to the TULF's proposals will be finalized very shortly. Mr Jayewardene said further discussions with the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, will be held to find a political solution of the ethnic problem.

The high commissioner also drew Mr Jayewardene's attention to the incidents in Killinochchi in which 17 persons were killed. The Sri Lankan president said investigations are in progress and appropriate measures will be taken.

Meanwhile, according to Tamil daily, *VIRAKESARI*, at least 10 civilians were killed when security forces struck at Tampalakaman, a village about 18 km from Trincomalee. Security forces, however, say that only five militants were killed when they raided a hideout yesterday.

Draft Citizenship Bill Referred to Supreme Court

BK251134 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The president has referred the citizenship bill to the Supreme Court to determine whether its provisions are consistent with the Constitution. A 3-member bench comprising the chief justice, Mr S. Sharvananda, and justices Ranasinghe and L.H. de Alwis, will sit on Monday to determine the constitutionality of the bill. The bill is titled The Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons [word indistinct]. It is being referred to the Supreme Court under Article 122 of the Constitution which bestows the court with special constitutional jurisdiction in respect of a urgent bill.

The relevant article requires the court to make its determination within 24 hours or for such longer period not exceeding 3 days as the president may specify from the date of its assembling. The court is required to communicate its determination only to the president and to the speaker. Article 123 requires the court to state the reasons for its determination and, where a bill or any part thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution, to specify the provision of provisions with which the conflict occurrs.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is challenging the bill as being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

Troops, Helicopters Repulse Tamil Attack

HK250600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 25 (AFP) — Troops using mortars and air support repulsed an attack by militant Tamil separatists on an army camp in the northern Jaffna peninsula last night, security sources said today. The militants fired mortars and small arms at the camp in the village of Navatkuli about eight kilometres (five miles) from Jaffna town, the sources said.

Residents said that helicopters flying over the small village in support of the soldiers fired at the attackers. They said that casualties were likely as several houses were damaged by shell fire from the camp and some were set ablaze. Other sources said one person had been injured and taken to hospital. In Colombo, officials said they had no reports of helicopters firing at the village.

Police said that a police station in the Eastern Batticaloa District also came under mortar and automatic fire yesterday. They added that Wellawali police station was slightly damaged, but there were no casualties.

In Ampara District to the south, a suspected Tamil militant detained at an army camp was shot dead during an escape bid yesterday, security sources said. A magisterial inquiry into the death was to be held today, the sources added.

'Berserk' Soldier Shoots 10, Injures 7

BK281108 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] A soldier who went berserk killed 10 civilians and injured 7 others at Kilinochchi on the 25th of this month. The incident occurred when about 50 terrorists attacked the Kilinochchi police station and the adjoining Army camp around noon. Government sources revealed that the terrorists' attack with mortars and machineguns was going on for some time when the coordinating officer decided to deploy the Army to outflank the attackers with a view to capturing them. The infantrymen were asked to go out

[word indistinct] fire from near the railway station as the attacks were coming from behind the railway station.

During the process, one of the soldiers suffered a temporary lapse of his senses and went berserk and fired his personal weapon in a frenzy at the railway station killing 10 persons, including some women and children, and injuring 7 others. The other soldiers immediately overpowered the demented soldier and disarmed him. The soldier concerned was not in his proper senses for several hours after the shooting. He was shivering and shouting out, making incoherent statements to the effect that terrorists were all around him. He is now in custody and brought to Colombo for investigation.

Curfew Imposed in Nuwara Following Ethnic Clashes

BK290306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a 15-hour curfew was imposed in the central hill district of Nuwara yesterday. This follows ethnic clashes in which one person was killed and another injured in police firing. The situation is now reported to be under control but tense.

Curfew Areas Listed

BK291109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] The curfew imposed yesterday and now in force in nine police divisions in the hill country has been extended to 0700 tomorrow without a break. Curfew order is in effect in the Maskeliya, (Vogovantalaba), Norwood, (Happy), Poddala, Talawakelle, Lindula, Agrapatana, and (Nanoi) areas. The curfew was imposed last night following incidents of looting and disruption of peace in the Talawakelle bazaar. Stern action will be taken against those who defy the curfew order.

The government has advised people in these areas not to believe in rumors which may be spread by mischievous elements who are out to create panic and confusions.

Troops Rushed to Plantation Areas

HK291250 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 29 (AFP) — Extra troops were rushed to several hill towns today as a curfew was further extended amid continuing tension between Sinhala and Tamil plantation workers, official sources said.

Extra troops were sent to Talawakelle and several others tea plantation areas to join police and soldiers already there to curb violence after more shops were set ablaze in continuing violence yesterday, police sources said. The sources said that 18 shops in Watagoda and Lindula, near Talawakelle where the violence first erupted Monday, were torched last night. The shops were owned by Sinhala people, residents of the area said.

Reports said that workers had also set fire to the Watagoda railway station, but this was not immediately confirmed. At least 25 shops have been gutted by fire since the first troubles brokeout following a private dispute between a Sinhala shop owner and a Tamil customer, sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that the situation in the tea plantation areas was "under control."

Reports from the areas said that tension was still high and some Sinhala families had left their homes for fear of attacks from estate workers who stayed away from plucking tea and other plantation duties today.

At least 25,000 plantation workers kept away today union sources said.

25 'Terrorists' Captured in Eastern Region

BK291311 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Twenty-five hardcore Tamil terrorists were arrested in several parts in the eastern province during the past 3 days. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that these terrorists belong to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front.

Meanwhile, the terrorists exploded a bomb at the Batticaloa railway station this morning and chased away the passengers. There were no damages to building or casualties.

Terrorists, who also demolished a culvert on the crossway of the Mullaitivu road, exploded a landmine near the Mullaitivu hospital junction and threw hand grenades at the troops yesterday.

Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the troops returned fire causing the terrorists to flee. The roads were impassable due to the damage caused by the terrorist attack.

Tea Prices Stabilize As Cyanide Scare Subsides

BK271130 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Steps carried out by Sri Lanka traditional tea buyers in Western markets show no trace of cyanide or any other contamination in Sri Lankan tea. A spokesman for a local tea firm told the national news agency, LANKA PUWATH, that confidence in the purity of Sri Lankan tea is building up once again and prices are expected to increase.

After 2 weeks of depressed prices, a welcome tendency in the stabilization of prices was evident at the Colombo tea auction last Tuesday [21 January].

Contradictory Radio Reports on PDRY Fighting Cited

LD301128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Reports received from South Yemen indicate that Abyan Province, birthplace of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, has been subjected to air raids and ground attacks by forces opposing him. According to a report carried by Ra's al-Khaymah radio the reports said: The opposing forces, armed with 400 tanks, attacked 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's birthplace. The radio of the new collective leadership said: Forces opposing 'Ali Nasir Muhammad have occupied Abyan Province. However, the radio backing 'Ali Nasir Muhammad announced: The opposing forces have been defeated.

The Abyan Province Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party also announced that units of the armed forces and police and national resistance groups have risen against those opposing 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and crushed their attack.

Lebanon's Shams al-Din Speaks at Islamic Conference

LD292327 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — In their lectures at the fourth conference on Islamic thought here Wednesday scholars and theologians from Iran and other parts of the world discussed the various aspects of Islam as a political and social discipline on which to build a unique statehood and shape private and social life along divine guidelines suited to man and his nature.

The speakers at the conference also touched on the exploitative policies of the big powers and warned Muslim nations against succumbing to the destructive recipes prescribed by the big powers for ridding Muslim and Third World nations from their afflictions.

Vice Speaker of the Supreme Assembly of Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din said at the afteroon session of the conference here that the big powers assume an air of good will in their dealings with Muslim nations and pretend to be concerned for the well-being of Muslims and for peace of the Muslim world, while in reality the big powers promote purely selfish goals. "World peace as frequently heard from colonialistic world powers," said he, "means peace and power for the Western countries and war and poverty for the Third World."

The Lebanese official said Islamic unity is not something to the benefit of Shi'ites or Sunnites of this or that sect here and there in the Muslim world but rather in the ultimate interest of the Muslim world as an integrated whole.

Scholar and author of *Iran-Iraq War, Islam and Nationalism*, 'Abd al-Majid Torab-Zamzami said at the conference that a permanent plot of the big powers against the world Muslim nations is one of arousing nationalistic sentiments and ethnic feelings among Muslims as an agency whereby to pit them against each other. He called on world Muslims to struggle against "plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran" and get inspiration from the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Iranian scholar Hojjat ol-Eslam Amid Zanjani said in his lecture that "council" is an important element in the Islamic form of government which acts as a safeguard against arbitrary use of power as is common in non-Islamic statehoods...

The conference which opened here with a speech by President Khamene'i Wednesday is to continue until Friday January 31st.

Majlis Condemns 'Conspiracy' To Drive Down Oil Price

LD291801 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — The Oil Committee of the Majlis Wednesday said that it was adamantly opposed to falling oil prices and said that failure to uphold the official price would be a betrayal of the Muslim and Third World countries. The committee in the statement condemned the big powers conspiracy to drive down oil prices, and warned that "such beguiling slogans as a the 'price war' should not panic the Third World oil producing countries or cause them to yield to the conspiracy." The statement said that by their unity and by acting concertedly OPEC members can foil the big powers' plot.

Addressing itself to "certain OPEC members among them the Saudi Government" the committee warned them against wasting their peoples' resources and called on them to beware the wrath of their own masses.

Commentary on Oil Market Situation

GF270844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Price Reduction Conspiracy — Its Causes, Dimensions, and Objectives"]

[Excerpts] According to the reports, the international oil market is still in the grip of tension and, except for a minimal increase in prices which took place on Saturday, the price of the North Sea crude is still less than $20 per barrel. With the passage of time, the dimensions of this crisis seem to be expanding. How long will this continue? What is the source of this crisis? How can we assess the dimensions and objectives? These are questions which, for the most part, can be answered in the context of prevailing circumstances, while the others will be answered by time itself.

In general, the factors enumerated as regards the international oil market are interrelated. Even if a solitary issue is discussed, this does not mean that it is not linked to other factors or policies. Besides, circumstances such as the moderate temperatures in Europe and the United States, the mobilization of strategic resources beyond that which is necessary, the reluctance of refineries to purchase crude, the increase in the production of OPEC members and others, the rise in transactions on the basis of marginal pricing, the announcement of a reduction of oil prices by the majority of producers, the violation of OPEC decisions by some OPEC members, and two other factors can be considered as reasons for the current position of the oil market which indicate that the present state of affairs has been artificially

created and, in light of the repercussions of this turmoil, can be deemed synonymous with the term conspiracy.

These two factors -- one being the measures taken by the Group of Five and the other the Saudi oil policy of the past month -- undoubtedly stem from the other general factors mentioned earlier, but they should be examined separately. The Group of Five, which is comprised of the five industrial stalwarts of the world, namely the United States, the FRG, Great Britain, France, and Japan have been discussing international economic and financial bottlenecks, that is, the financial problems in these five countries.

Our country's oil minister said in an interview on Sunday that the members of the Group of Five requested a gradual reduction in North Sea oil with assurances that the concomitant losses would be compensated. Great Britain initiated the decrease in prices by mobilizing its strategic reserves in the international oil market and, with the assistance of other OPEC members, created the present ferment in the international oil market. The fact that Saudi Arabia collaborated in this policy is worth mentioning. It obviates the fact that Saudi oil policy in the past month set the seal of approval on this trend.

Speaking on the reasons for the adoption of such a policy by Saudi Arabia, our country's oil minister said that Saudi Arabia is not OPEC's spokesman, but we heard this from Yamani himself, who thought that by mobilizing oil on this scale he could initiate a price war; but this has to be discussed by OPEC. We told Yamani that we have a better instrument to achieve this objective. Saudi Arabia has played a major role in creating the present critical conditions by releasing its surplus oil in the international market on the basis of its foreign reserves of $100 billion and without any thought to the problems of other OPEC members. Regarding the possible duration of the present oil exigency, our country's oil minister believes that it is temporary and that different type of emergency will materialize.

In light of the conplicated and diverse nature of the factors which have contributed to the present straitened circumstances of the oil market, this crisis will assume greater and more serious proportions and the world powers will then capitalize on the situation in various ways. In gauging the dimensions of this crisis, all the oil producers and exporters of the world -- except for some of the more opulent members -- will incur losses. The continuation of a price reduction has also affected the financial and currency markets of the world and, according to experts, the sudden plummeting of oil prices will inflict a blow on the international economy.

What do the world powers hope to attain by exacerbating the situation in the oil market? A drop in the value of currencies against the dollar will guarantee the increase in the value of other international currencies and in that of the Japanese yen. An increase in the yen's value will not have any effect except to bring about a decrease in Japan's exports and Japan would never accept such a situation. But following the recent fall in the value of the dollar against the yen and the fall in oil prices, the possibility increases that one of the reasons for this fall is to reassure Japan and elicit its permission on the basis of an increase in the value of the yen. Most experts believe that the present changes in the values against the yen and the reduction of oil prices on the international market have been brought about so that Japan will gain in this manner.

Despite this state of affairs, our country's officials asserted that the aim of the industrial powers in bringing about this critical situation in the international oil market was to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following the foiling of the plot to attack Khark Island and deprive Iran of its income from oil exports, and at a time when the Karbala' convoys had initiated a campaign for the final defeat of the Iraqi ruling regime, world oppression envisaged that with the reduction in oil prices and coercing of the Islamic Republic, it would be able to douse the flames of the fervor of the combatants. But the Islamic Republic of Iran is blessed with the resilience and fortitude that will never allow it to bow down before such duress. Thus, on Saturday the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that in order to maintain its prices, it will halt the sale of its oil on the spot market.

Besides the two factors elaborated on above, world oppression is also pursuing other ulterior objectives which will be discussed at a later date.

In light of all that has been said, what can be done at this juncture? As our oil minister said, the Islamic Republic of Iran will reduce its short-term production and in the long run it will impose restrictions on the import of goods from Western customers of oil in order to prevent them from investing in OPEC countries.

We hope that members of the OPEC cartel will comprehend the gravity of the present situation and its sensitivity in following the above policy and will act in coordination with Iran, God willing.

Oil Ministry Official Leaves for UAE, Saudi Arabia

LD291300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Yesterday evening, Kazempur-Ardabili, the deputy oil minister for trade and international affairs, left for the UAE and Saudi Arabia with a written message from Mr Khamene'i, our country's president, within the framework of the policy to explain the Islamic Republic's stances on ways of controlling the oil market situation, the serious confrontation against the arrogant plot to reduce oil prices, ways of preventing overproduction, and the necessity of increasing solidarity among the OPEC members.

During his meetings with the oil ministers of the above-mentioned countries, Kazempur-Ardabili will discuss various issues related to the oil market and other issues of mutual interest. He will also submit our president's message to the leaders of these two countries.

It is necessary to point out that during these meetings, in view of the existing oil market situation, the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with some proposals on solidarity and strengthening of the market, which require new changes on reduction of supply and stricter control over the OPEC member countries' quotas, will be discussed and views exchanged.

Information Minister Warns Against Factionalism

LD291453 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Esfahan, Jan. 29, IRNA — The minister of information, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, speaking to a gathering of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), here Wednesday, stressed that factionalism should be avoided. Due to importance of the issue, he added, Imam Khomeyni has stressed that political tendencies should not infiltrate into military and security organizations.

Further in his speech he pointed out that guarding the revolution was a highly important task which entailed great responsibilities. A person who is defending the Islamic revolution should have a complete knowledge of the revolution which should be attained through indepth research and not by imitation. Therefore, he added, political-ideological centers of the IRGC units played an important role in this connection. The minister of information also stressed the importance of piety.

Meanwhile, in another speech at the administrative council of the Esfahan Province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Reyshahri said that information organization was vital to any system and added if it were not operating well the government could not function properly. Within several months, he added, the ministry has been able to create its establishments throughout the country and has made noticeable achievements in connection with internal security and preventing conspiracies and plots of Western and Eastern espionage networks.

He also called for cooperation of various organizations and their authorities with the Ministry of Information and praised people's cooperation with the ministry, which he described as unprecedented in the world. This proves, he concluded, that the Islamic revolution is deeply rooted.

Indonesian President, Envoy Discuss Expansion of Ties

LD292257 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — Indonesia is willing to expand her economic, cultural and political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was announced by Indonesian President Gen. Suharto in a meeting with outgoing Iranian ambassador to Jakarta, 'Abdolazim Hashemi Nik Tuesday. The Iranian ambassador expressed hope that the two countries could exchange political, economic and cultural delegations aimed at strengthening their relations.

POW'S Torture by Iraqi Government Detailed

LD300728 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — In a press conference attended by foreign and domestic reporters in an Iraqi POW's camp here Wednesday, some tortured Iraqi POW's who were forcibly sent to the war fronts by the Iraqi secret agents, spoke of their torture as well as that of Iraqi people and mujahidin by the Baghdad Government.

One of the POW's, Salim Hashim, told the reporters that he had been tortured both mentally and physically by Iraqi Government agents while imprisoned. He said that beating prisoners on the soles of their feet with sticks was a normal routine. He said that Iraqi jailers in "Abu Gharib" Prison mass executed those prisoners who had received the severest torture and were unable to go to the fronts. On September 23, 1982, a group of 350 Iraqi prisoners were executed upon the direct order of Saddam Husayn by an officer called Qassi-Bud in Abu Gharib prison, Salim Hashim said. He noted that he had personally witnessed the execution of 850 prisoners during a week.

On the kinds of torture practised by the Iraqi Government agents on prisoners, Salim Hashim said that burning prisoners' bodies with a cigarette, hanging hand-cuffed prisoners upside down by their feet from the ceiling fan and forcing them to give their blood were the most common types of torture.

He further said that the Iraqi officials commuted his punishment to 12 years of imprisonment after they had received 1000 Iraqi dinars from his family. The officials released him on condition he be despatched to the fronts. But, the POW said, he surrendered himself to Iranian Muslim combatants as soon as he was sent to the battlefield.

Another prisoner of war, Jabir 'Ali Yasir, 50, told the reporters that the Iraqi jail torturer had broken his arms and legs. He said they had also driven nails into his head. Yasir said that when Iraqi agents had seen his persistance in not giving up his beliefs, they transfered him to the Fifth Branch of the Iraqi secret police headquarters and forced him to stand up for 45 consecutive days.

Some other prisoners who had been tortured by the Iraqi regime showed the reporters signs of torture on their bodies such as their extracted finger nails, burnt skin, deep cuts made by glass, and mended bones broken by Iraqi agents.

SAIRI Reports Ba'thist Commander Killed in Najaf

LD292056 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — Iraqi mujahidin killed Ba'thist commander Ahmad Sami in Najaf during the current week, according to the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) publication *RAHE-E KARBALA'* here. Sami was commander of a hot-pursuit which tracked down Iraqi mujahidin inside the city. According to the report the mujahidin disarmed and released other members of the team.